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161-12560-11

# Party Figure Quiet Over: Smith Anger

7-19  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — National Democratic Treasurer Robert Strauss Tuesday declined to comment on reports that Texas Gov. Preston Smith will call for his resignation this week.

"I've had no word directly or indirectly from him and in fairness I don't want to respond unless I do hear from him," Strauss said.

Smith was angered by Strauss' public endorsement of one of his gubernatorial opponents, Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes.

Strauss' name appeared with 350 others in an advertisement for Barnes in The Dallas Morning News Feb. 13.

Smith in a letter to a supporter said he felt Strauss had an obligation to remain impartial. Aides of the governor have said he probably will issue a statement calling for Strauss' removal this week.

"I have no apologies for endorsing Ben Barnes," Strauss said. "I think he'll make a splendid governor."

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (161-1216) (RUC)  
ROBERT SCHWARZ STRAUSS  
SPECIAL INQUIRY

ENCLOSURES - 9

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ENCLOSURE